

**REMARKS**

Favorable consideration and allowance of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

In the present Official Action, Claims 1-27, which are present in the above-captioned application, have been subjected to a restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 as follows:

- I. Claims 1-17, drawn to a semiconductor process, classified in Class 438, subclass 581, and
- II. Claims 18-27, drawn to a semiconductor device, classified in Class 257, subclass 377.

As indicated, and in order to be fully responsive to the restriction requirement imposed in the present Official Action, applicants provisionally elect, without traverse, to prosecute the subject matter of Group I, i.e., Claims 1-17, and reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application, i.e., Claims 18-27.

Wherefore, consideration and allowance of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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